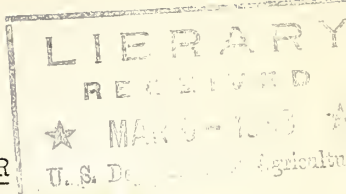


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EDUCATIONAL VALUES THAT COME TO THE 4-H CLUB MEMBER

A radio talk by C. J. Galpin, U. S. Department of Agriculture, delivered in the National 4-H club radio program, Saturday, February 4, 1933, broadcast by a network of 57 associate NBC radio stations.

A real education teaches boys and girls two things at least, and I am going to speak, just a few moments, about these two things: The first is the ability to construct something of value - to do something which will serve the world in which one lives, to make something which possibly would not have been made by any one else, in fact, a real education should be constructive and aim toward a piece of workmanship nearing perfection like a piece of art.

I have reference here to such homely and ordinary matters of every-day life as bread, and corn, and calves, and chickens, and dresses, and fruit - in fact, any of the very well known tasks on the farm, either out on the land or in the household. The 4-H club ideal is the construction of bread after a pattern of perfection; an acre of corn, after a type of the most perfect corn known, a pure-bred calf, which can claim a good inheritance, in fact, the construction of everything that is made according to the best that is known in the making or breeding of such useful things. This ideal of the perfect is precisely the ideal of the artist in the fine arts and should be so recognized by the boy and girl in 4-H club work. They are artists in ordinary life, constructing not only perfect things and so things of beauty, but things of great use to the whomsoever into whose hands these things may finally fall. This making things for the whomsoever is generally recognized as the highest form of service approaching in its quality the objectives of religion itself.

The second thing which a real education does is to help a boy and girl set a pace for himself as a man, or herself as a woman in the matter of not only doing something in the world but of living worthily as a piece of the world in which one lives and it is always possible that the boy and girl may achieve as a child or youth a standard of excellence which they can never surpass as a man or woman. I recall such an incident in my own early history. When I was twelve years old, my mother started out early one summer morning with the old family horse and buggy and three small children, leaving the country parsonage in the hills twelve miles south of Syracuse, N.Y., for a vacation. She was to drive to Syracuse, go through the city, and reach my grandfather's farm, six miles to the north of Syracuse. We bade her goodbye, my father and I, and an hour passed, very lonely for me, I remember. Suddenly my father called, I ran to him. "Mother has left her satchel containing her best dress," he said, very much perplexed, indeed. "What shall we do?" he asked. "I don't know," said I, perfectly bewildered myself. "I know," he replied. "you will take the satchel to her. Before you get down Lord's Hill you will catch a ride with some farmer going to the city, and will overtake her. Old Nell is a slow horse."

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A ten-pound satchel, a small boy, a mother needing her best dress. The motive was strong. I trudged a mile to Lord's Hill. No farmer, I went two miles down the hill. No farmer. I walked on through the Indian Reservation, through Onondaga Valley, through Syracuse, up the old Plank Road. No farmer, no money for street car or stage. Up to Grandfather's cottage under the chestnut trees, in the late afternoon. My mother was finally caught up with, and her best dress delivered.

I have wearied on many a hike, as an adult, with a pack of a few pounds strapped securely on my back, but I never have since then endured so much as I did in walking those twelve miles, carrying in my hands that ten-pound satchel. Nothing I have ever done tested my mettle so completely as carrying that dress to mother. And do you think I do not now know the meaning of the sentence, "The child is father of the Man?" I solemnly say to you today that the 4-H club work is producing in children and youth achievement which will later in the adulthood of the same persons prove stimulating to high endeavor.

I may say that the education which one gets in the 4-H club work is a real education because it brings these boys and girls in contact with real men and women who have constructive thoughts, on the one hand, and worthy lives, on the other hand, which constantly lead the 4-H club boys and girls into ways of doing and thinking that they otherwise would not have entered. I do congratulate the 4-H club boys and girls on the fact that there is such a wonderful club in the United States and that it has such an array of men and women back of it, and beside it, carrying it on, and that the U. S. Department of Agriculture is so fully and heartily committed to the work.

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